

K-277
Big Fairlee
Tolchester
Private

19th Century

Big Fairlee is a simple circa 1800 brick farmhouse with stylish paneling on the first floor. The house form with its corner stairs is a common one in Kent County, but fine Federal period woodwork is less so. The building, with its several barns, outbuildings, and housing for farm help exhibits a way of farm life now nearly as rare as this old house.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Big Fairlee

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Buck Road (Bay Shore Road)

JCR 2/4/94

CITY, TOWN

Tolchester (Georgetown) ☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Elison Family

Telephone #:(301) 778-0597

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Thomas W. Elison, Byford Heights

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: No REF.

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kent County Survey

DATE

C62

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

K-277

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Big Fairlee is a two story brick farmhouse with Federal detailing but with a floor plan more commonly found in Kent County in the early and middle 18th century. The building is located near Fairlee Creek, northwest of the town of Fairlee. The house faces south and is part of a complex of farm buildings of varying ages; a smoke house with wide door closed with penny-end strap hinges appears to be the oldest of those remaining.

The house consists of a three bay main house on a basement and a lower, two story, three bay wing. Both have enclosed end chimneys and two small attic windows in each gable. The gable roofs are finished with verge boards and box cornices with crown molding and cove bed mold. The brick is common bond on all facades; there is no water table.

The wing and main house are contemporaries with a continuous rear wall. The front wall of the brick wing is set back slightly from the facade of the main house. Later frame wings and porches attest to changing life styles and needs. Behind the wing with roof ridge perpendicular to that of the house, is a two story frame house connected to the wing with a one story hyphen. There is a small shed adjacent the hyphen. A one bay entrance porch shelters the main entrance. It has a gable roof, side benches and paneled square columns. It, like the screened, shed porch on the kitchen are later additions.

The house is evenly fenestrated with openings placed regularly throughout both house and wing. The entrances, front and rear, have crossetted and reeded trim, paneled jambs and heads. These panels consist of narrow moldings applied to resemble flush panels.

There are three second floor windows on long facades of the main house, a central entrance and two windows on the first floor. Replacement 2/2 Victorian sash are found in the main house. Old pegged trim with back band molding, probably a quarter round, remains on the first floor. Louvered shutters are used on the second floor and paneled shutters with two panels and pierced half moon are used on the first floor, front. Some old wrought iron shutter dogs remain.

The wing is also evenly fenestrated with three 6/6 sash windows on the second floor, front and central entrances, front and rear. There are only two windows on the second floor rear, reflecting a central partition inside. On the front facade there is a 6/6 window right of the entrance. To the left of the door is a 8/8 sash window with a narrow 4/4 sash window to its left.

The main house has a hall and parlor plan with enclosed corner stairs in opposite corners. The two central entrances open into the parlor. There are three bedrooms on the second floor, the two above the parlor reached by a narrow corridor along the rear wall. There are also corner stairs in the former two rooms of the wing. Two of the three second floor chambers are also reached by short corridor. The wing and main house are connected by a five foot

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-277

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Big Fairlee is a simple ca. 1800 farmhouse with stylish paneling on the first floor. The house form with its corner stairs is a common one in Kent County, but fine Federal period woodwork less so. The building with its several barns, outbuildings, and housing for farm help exhibits a way of farm life now nearly as rare as this old house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7 Continued

door on the second floor and three steps down.

The interior of the wing is largely modern, but the interior woodwork of the main house is largely intact. The parlor especially has paneling which displays the delicacy and fine craftsmanship of the Federal period of interior decoration. It has a paneled end wall with central fireplace and flanking closet doors, and the stair is incorporated into the wall. The cornice consists of a carved wooden cable and a band of delicate reeding. The same reeding is used for the chair rail and forms the basic decorative motif of the mantle. The fireplace has a rectangular opening with crossette surround, enriched with reeding. The frieze has an elaborate herringbone of reeding and a crossetted panel, also with reeded edges, surmounts the molded mantle shelf. Recessed paneling with ogee molded edges is used; the closet doors have six raised and beveled panels. Other doors, including entrance doors, are similiar, on both first and second floors. First floor doors have crossetted trim which consists of delicate composite moldings typical of the Federal period.

In the hall, the fireplace wall is also paneled with recessed paneling. The mantle has a molded surround and shelf. Above the shelf is a crossetted panel. The chair rail has been replaced with 20th century wainscoting.

Upstairs bedrooms retain their original window and door trim, mantles, chair rails, plaster, and wide pine floors.

The house is occupied and maintained, but in need of restoration.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chestertown</u> VICINITY <u>Fairlee</u> STREET NO. <u>Bay Shore Road - 3 miles west of Fairlee</u> <u>on North side of Road</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Thomas Eliason</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling - Mr. & Mrs. John A. Groves</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-277</u> 2. NAME <u>Big Fairlee</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>C. 1800</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>fair</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>MHT</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct. 22, 1968</u>	

Big Fairlee farm house is a two story, two part brick building probably constructed around 1800. The main section is three bays long, as is the wing. Brick is laid in Flemish bond on the facade and common bond on other sides and there is neither belt course nor water table; the entire structure is painted white. Above the basement windows are flat arches which the other windows do not possess. Around the center door is molded trim with dog ears and reeding, a panelled soffit and a rectangular transom. All of the windows have 6/6 sashes and shutters. Louvered shutters on the second story and panelled shutters on first story, with half moon pierced in upper panel. There is a small porch in front of the center door and an enclosed porch across most of the wing. There is a large brick chimney on each gable of the "A" roof house. It is noteworthy because of the presence of reeding on exterior trim and pierced paneled shutters on first story.

K-277

Big Fairlee

~~1840~~ - C. 1800

Colonial

owned by Thos. Eliason

tenant by Mr. & Mrs. John Asbury Groves
 Chestertown, Md.

Big Fairlee Farm house is a 2 story, 2 part brick building, probably constructed around 1800. ~~III~~ The main section is 3 bay long, ~~as is~~ as is the wing. Brick is laid in Flemish bond on the facade ~~and~~ common bond on other sides and there is neither belt course nor water table; the entire structure is painted white. Above the basement windows are flat arches which the other windows do not possess. Above the center door is molded trim with dog ears and pediment, a pedimented soffit and a ^{rectangular} transom. All of the windows have ~~Lowell~~ shutters on the second story + paneled shutters on the first story. There is a small porch in front of the center door and an enclosed porch across most of the wing. There is a large brick chimney on each gable of the "A" wing house. It is noteworthy because of the presence of pediment on exterior trim and ~~the~~ pierced paneled shutters on 1st story.

pierced in upper panel
 moon
 1st story, with half



15'

510

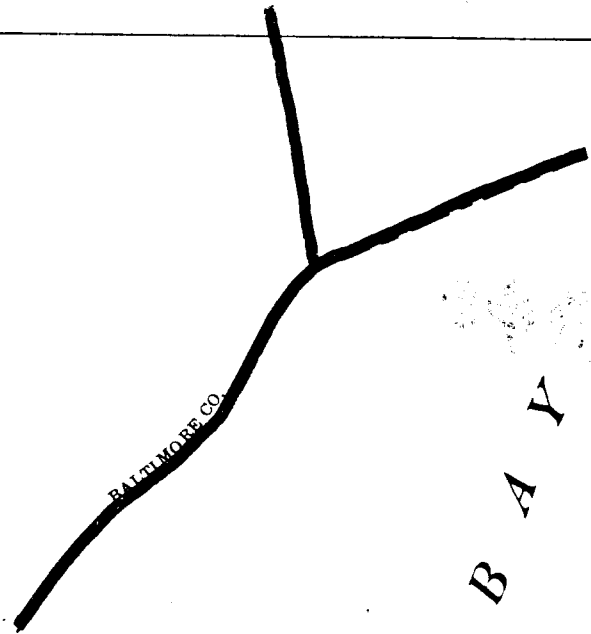
500

490

10'

480

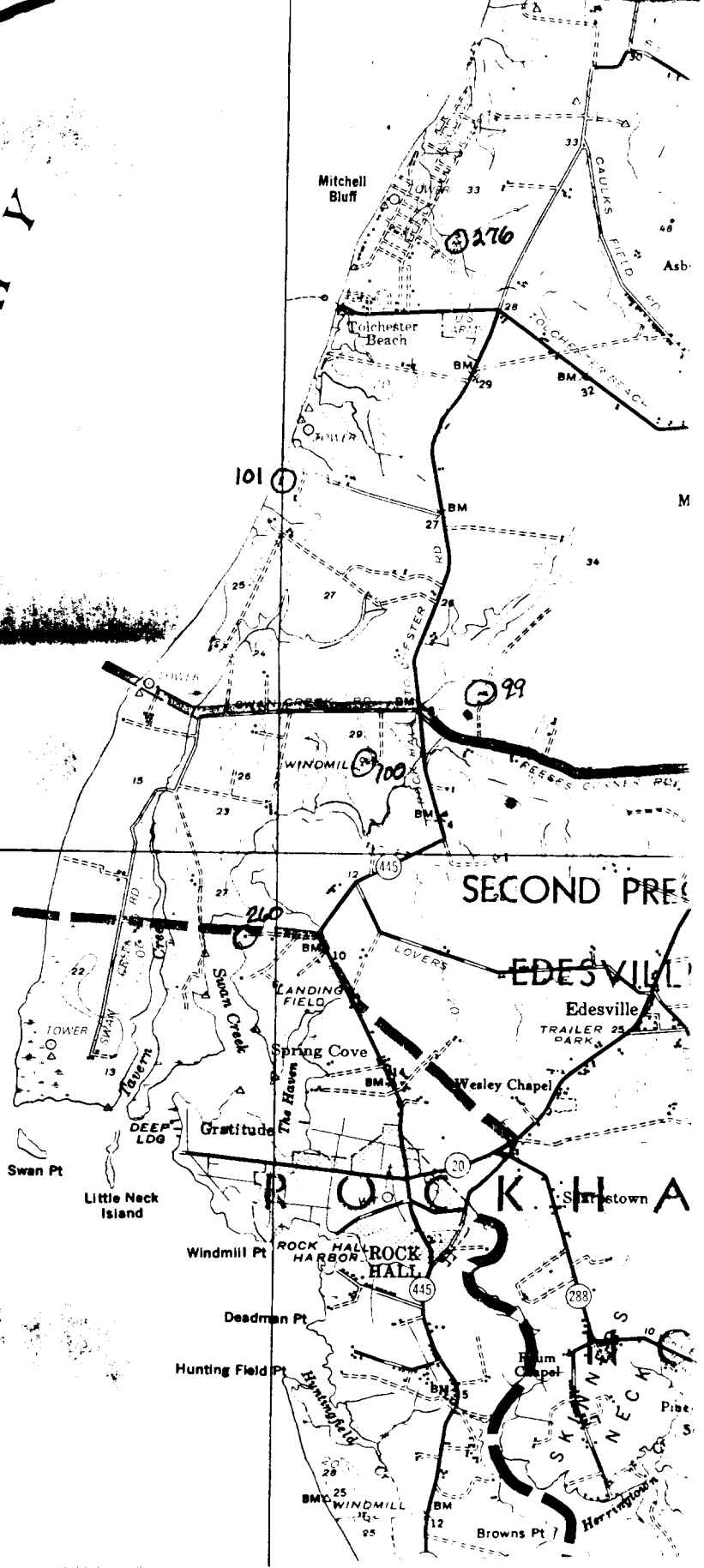
470



C H E S A P E A K E

K-277

277
WATER
TANK



SECOND PREC

EDESVILLE

Edesville
TRAILER 25
PARKS

ROCK HALL

ROCK HALL
HARBOR

Wesley Chapel

Wesley Chapel

Wesley Chapel

Wesley Chapel



K-277

Big Fairlee M & T - K 277
Fairlee & Talcott Rd
Fairlee, Utd.
South front & side

C. Engstrom Aug 1977



Big Fairlee

UM & T.

K-277

K277

Fairlee & Wakechester Rd

Fairlee, Md.

North facade

C. Engstrom

Aug 1977



BIG FAIRLEE MHT 277

FAIRLEE - TOLCHESTER RD

FAIRLEE, MD.

MANTEL - PANELLING - FIRST FLOOR

C. ENGSTROM - AUG. 1977